Philosophies - ResArc PhD Course

Contributing to the ResArc PhD course series:
Tendencies-Approaches-**Philosophies**-Communications
Contact to apply to the course: Carin Österlund carin.osterlund@arch.kth.se
Course Co-Ordinator Hélène Frichot Helene.Frichot@arch.kth.se

Application to the course due by Monday 17 August 2015 (but please try to notify us of your plan to attend the course as soon as possible)

Course Outline

This course aims to address how the researcher in architecture can make use of the plethora of philosophies available to them, both from within and from without the discipline. We will place a special emphasis on the two-way conceptual traffic between architecture and philosophy, in the recognition of the reciprocal relationship of influence these two disciplines have historically maintained with respect to each other. What are the strategies and tactics that can be fruitfully employed to engage in diverse philosophies *from the point of view of* the discipline of architecture? How does the architectural researcher maintain a creative and critical relay between theory and practice? How can concepts and arguments (drawn from philosophy and elsewhere) be mobilized by the architectural researcher?

This course engages in the reciprocal relationships that can be forged between the disciplines of philosophy and architecture, and is structured around the thematic matrix of **ecologies-economies-technologies**, further defined across three registers: 1. subjectivities; 2. socialities; 3. environmentalities. In the first module the course introduces the role that critical theories can play under the rubric of an 'ecosophy' or even a 'geophilosophy' in the context of what has come to be called the 'Anthropocene'; in the second module the course explores questions of alternative economies, and relates this to a feminist theoretical literature and practice precedents; and finally, the third module ventures in the direction of posthuman futures and new materialisms in order to rethink questions concerning technologies. Each of the three proposed modules stresses the socio-political context of architectural thinking and production, and the role that complex networks of power relations play in specific locales of architectural action. The course is designed to maintain relevance for all students with an interest in space and culture-related research topics, with a specific regard to the role and effect of architecture in society.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By attending this course participants can expect to develop skills in:
1. Ability to collaboratively *define* key concepts and arguments introduced in the course literature and beyond
2. Ability to *practice* close reading and critical and creative writing exercises and upload these onto a seminar Blog
3. Ability to *theorise* self-directed design research projects using key concepts and arguments

4. Ability to ***create*** new or hybrid concepts and thereby ***develop*** arguments pertinent to current research projects
5. Ability to actively ***participate*** in seminar discussions at a high level

Course Credits

Participants can achieve either 5 or 7.5 credit points for this course.

- To achieve 5 credit points participants are required to attend 2 modules, and complete an assignment
- To achieve 7.5 credit points participants are required to attend 3 modules and complete an assignment

Key Dates

June 2, 2015 at GTH Gothenburg During the conclusion of the ResArc Approaches course
Philosophies Course Introduction
Content and pre-course assignment will be presented at the conclusion of the Approaches course in Gothenburg, Chalmers as well as by mail to everybody enrolled for the course.

October 7-9 2015 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module One - Ecologies

November 4-6 2015 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Two - Economies

December 9-11 2015 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Three – Technologies

General Information

Course responsibility:

Hélène Frichot, KTH, helene.frichot@arch.kth.se

Contact for application to the course:

Carin Österlund carin.osterlund@arch.kth.se

Participation
Each of the three scheduled modules is composed of 3 close reading seminars, making 9 seminars in all. For each of the nine scheduled seminar sessions two to three theoretical texts drawn, for the most part, from architectural theory and philosophy will be made available to participants. While an expanded literature will also be made available, participants will be expected to closely read at least one text per seminar (9 texts as a minimum) so as to be able to participate in the group discussion. Participants will be required to make an image and text response to at least 6 of the 9 curated seminars, as explained below:

Before each MODULE participants will be expected to upload one (minimum) to three (maximum) blog posts to the Philosophies seminar blog. These will be composed in response to the stipulated

seminar reading lists. By the conclusion of the course participants should aim to have uploaded a minimum of 6 out of a possible of 9 blog posts (as there are 9 close reading seminars in all, see below). This approach allows participants to pick and choose among the reading lists made available for the 9 proposed close reading seminars, and thereby frame their response in light of their own research interests.   These blog posts will eventually be compiled as a 'conceptual story-book,' which each participant will be required to complete. As a collective of researchers we will also collectively contribute to the construction of a 'heteroglossary of concepts', which we will add to incrementally throughout the duration of the course. *See the assessment exercises below for further details.*

LOGIC of PHILOSOPHIES COURSE STRUCTURE:

Seminars -	Meeting One	Meeting Two	Meeting Three
	ECOLOGIES	ECONOMIES	TECHNOLOGIES
a. subjectivities	1	4	7
b. socialities	2	5	8
c. environmentalities	3	6	9

Schedule

Philosophies Course Introduction 2 June 2015, Gothernburg

Conclusion of Approaches course, School of Architecture, GTH Gothenburg, 2 June 2015

> **Lecture: Hélène Frichot *Who is Afraid of Critical Theory?***
>
> Where participants will be introduced to the structure of the Philosophies course and invited to prepare in advance for a collaborative mapping exercise of critical (architectural) theory, dedicated to a survey of 20th and 21st Century architectural theory anthologies (with a focus on contents pages): from K. Michael Hays, ed. *Architecture Theory since 1968*; Kate Nesbitt, *Theorising a New Agenda For Architectural Theory*; Neil Leach, ed. *Rethinking Architecture*; Jane Rendell, Jonathan Hill, Murray Fraser, Mark Dorrian, eds. *Critical Architecture*; Krista Sykes, ed. *Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993-2009*; Hilde Heynen et al. eds. *The SAGE Handbook of Architectural Theory*; etc…The mapping exercise itself will be conducted on the first day of the course, **Wednesday 7 October**, with the assumption that participants will bring along some preparatory material based on their own research-related literature reviews.

ECOLOGIES Module One

MODULE ONE October 7-9, 2015, School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm

Pre-Course Assignment
Inspired by (or as a critique of) the contents pages of the provided (architectural) theory anthologies, to which we encourage you to can add other anthologies relevant to your own research, we ask you to arrive at the first meeting with a constructed 'contents page' that describes a reinvented anthology and/or a wish list of essays you would like to read, **specifically** essays that situate your own current research. In groups we will then collaboratively recompose a collection of

new 'contents pages' as a series of posters for discussion. NOTE: This exercise DOES NOT assume that you have read the full contents of all the listed anthologies, nor of the anthologies you bring to the table, merely that you have perused the contents pages and attempted to understand the logic of their organisation. You will use this exercise as a means of introducing your research projects to your colleagues. See suggested readings below:

Reading Preparation:

To assist you in preparing for the pre-course assignment, we ask you to survey the contents pages of a number of architectural theory anthologies listed below, and consider the ways in which these have been thematically curated or organized in order to compose a contents page of your own. All available at: philosophiesresarc.net (password for protected pdfs is: resarc)

-Iain Borden, Barbara Penner, Jane Rendell, *Gender, Space, Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*, London: Routledge, 1999.
-K. Michael Hays, ed., *Architecture Theory since 1968*, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1998.
- C. Greig Crysler, Stephen Cairns, Hilde Heynen, eds. *The SAGE Handbook of Architectural Theory*, London: SAGE Publications, 2012.
-Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*, London: Routledge, 1997.
-Kate Nesbitt, ed., *Theorising a New Agenda For Architectural Theory: An Anthology of Architectural Theory 1965-1995*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996.
-Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner, Iain Borden, eds., *Gender Space Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*, London: Routledge, 2000.
-Jane Rendell, Jonathan Hill, Murray Fraser, Mark Dorrian, eds., *Critical Architecture*, London: Routledge, 2008.
-Krista Sykes, ed., *Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993-2009*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2010.

We strongly encourage you to add to this list of anthologies in relation to your current research projects.

ECONOMIES Module Two
MODULE TWO November 4-6, 2015, School of Architecture, KTH Stockholm

TECHNOLOGIES Module Three
MODULE THREE December 9-11, 2015 School of Architecture, KTH Stockholm

Further information on course content will be available at: philosophiesresarc.net

ASSESSMENT (Teaching-Learning Activities):

1. Participants will be required to construct an image and text **BLOG post** in response to a minimum of 6 out of a possible 9 set seminar reading lists (you will note above that there are 9 seminars curated across the Philosophies course, each with its own specific, though related theme). You are encouraged to create images that are diagrammatic or instructional. You are encouraged to approach this from the point of view of your specific research projects. These 'posts' will be uploaded to the Philosophies Blog *prior* to the relevant

seminar. They will be used to stimulate seminar discussions and undertake close readings of the selected essays. Approximately 500 words per post.

2. Participants will be invited to incrementally contribute to the compilation of a **Conceptual Toolbox** in response to the essays discussed in Philosophies. The Conceptual Toolbox will generate a 'heteroglossary' of key concepts that can be shared by all participants, as well as future participants in the course. Some of this conceptual labour will be undertaken in small groups during the seminars in workshop sessions.

3. Participants will be asked to create a **Conceptual Colouring-In book**. You are encouraged to frame your image and text responses from Assessment 1 according to a theme that is relevant to your research. Add to your colouring-in book a title, a contents page, an introduction, and responses to a minimum of 6 seminars (though you are welcome to respond to all nine). This will be compiled as a pdf document and emailed to Helene.Frichot@arch.kth.se **Due Date: Friday 15 January 2016**

Dr Hélène Frichot, March 2015